

**A Checklist of Birds of Choolanur Peacock Reserve and its Environs**

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Choolanur Peafowl Reserve is geographically located at (10.68N, 76.43E) with an average altitude of c.120m MSL. A section of the Western Ghats protrudes from the Nelliampathies into the midlands of Central Kerala gradually descending as the hills of Peechi and Pattikkad; further descending through Vazhani and finally ending up as a series of small rolling hillocks before it flattens on to the flood plains of the river Bharathapuzha. Choolanur lies to the extreme tip of these hillocks and hardly has any Ghat elements in its eco-system. Generally vegetation and forest type are more or less similar to the ones found in Wynad plateau; open forest with small to medium sized trees with thick bushes in between. This habitat makes it an ideal choice for Indian Peafowl *Pavo cistatus* and the presence of a good population here has made the forest department to call it as a “Peacock Reserve”. Administratively, this forest section comes under two ranges, Alathur Range (50 ha) of the Nemmara Division and Vadakkanchery Range (150ha) of the Thrissur Division.

Avifauna, though not spectacular, is interesting from a birding perspective as it is easy to watch birds (even without binoculars!) here by the nature of small trees and shrubs. It is also an area close to the heart for any amateur birder from Kerala as it not far away from Kavassery, the place where late Prof. K.K. Neelakantan (Induchoodan) had spent his childhood and many vacations bird watching.

The present checklist is an attempt to paint the birdlife of this interesting habitat and has been prepared after eight half-day visits (roughly 35-40 field hours) mainly spread over the months from June to December (1994 – 2001). Hence, the list is not comprehensive and some common species may be missing.

<b>Sl. No.</b>	<b>Common Name (Synopsis No.)</b>	<b>Scientific Name</b>
1	Little Cormorant (28)	<i>Phalacrocorax niger</i> (Vieillot, 1817)
2	Little Egret (49)	<i>Egretta garzetta</i> (Linnaeus, 1766)
3	Indian Pond-Heron (42-42a)	<i>Ardeola grayii</i> (Sykes, 1832)
4	Median Egret (47, 48)	<i>Mesophoyx intermedia</i> (Wagler, 1829)
5	Cattle Egret (44)	<i>Bubulcus ibis</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)
6	White-necked Stork (62)	<i>Ciconia episcopus</i> (Boddaert, 1783)
7	Black-shouldered Kite (124)	<i>Elanus caeruleus</i> (Desfontaines, 1789)
8	Black Kite (132-134)	<i>Milvus migrans</i> (Boddaert, 1783)
9	Brahminy Kite (135)	<i>Haliastur indus</i> (Boddaert, 1783)
10	Crested Serpent-Eagle (196-200)	<i>Spilornis cheela</i> (Latham, 1790)
11	Shikra (137-140)	<i>Accipiter badius</i> (Gmelin, 1788)
12	Changeable Hawk-Eagle (160-162)	<i>Spizaetus cirrhatus</i> (Gmelin, 1788)
13	Common Kestrel (222-224)	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i> Linnaeus, 1758

14	Grey Francolin (244-246)	<i>Francolinus pondicerianus</i> (Gmelin, 1789)
15	Red Spurfowl (275-277)	<i>Galloperdix spadicea</i> (Gmelin, 1789)
16	Indian Peafowl (311)	<i>Pavo cristatus</i> Linnaeus, 1758
17	White-breasted Waterhen (343-345)	
18	Red-wattled Lapwing (366-368)	<i>Amaurornis phoenicurus</i> (Pennant, 1769)
19	Green Sandpiper (397)	<i>Vanellus indicus</i> (Boddaert, 1783)
20	Common Sandpiper (401)	<i>Tringa ochropus</i> Linnaeus, 1758
21	Blue Rock Pigeon (516-517)	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i> Linnaeus, 1758
22	Spotted Dove (537-540)	<i>Columba livia</i> Gmelin, 1789
23	Yellow-legged Green-Pigeon (503-505)	<i>Streptopelia chinensis</i> (Scopoli, 1786)
24	Indian Hanging-Parrot (566, 567)	<i>Treron phoenicoptera</i> (Latham, 1790)
25	Rose-ringed Parakeet (549-550)	<i>Loriculus vernalis</i> (Sparrman, 1787)
26	Plum-headed Parakeet (557-558)	<i>Psittacula krameri</i> (Scopoli, 1769)
27	Brainfever Bird (573-574)	<i>Psittacula cyanocephala</i> (Linnaeus, 1766)
28	Indian Cuckoo (576)	<i>Hierococcyx varius</i> (Vahl, 1797)
29	Banded Bay Cuckoo (582-583)	<i>Cuculus micropterus</i> Gould, 1838
30	Asian Koel (590-592)	<i>Cacomantis sonneratii</i> (Latham, 1790)
31	Small Green-billed Malkoha (595)	<i>Eudynamys scolopacea</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)
32	Lesser Coucal (605)	<i>Phaenicophaeus viridirostris</i> (Jerdon, 1840)
33	Greater Coucal (600-602)	<i>Phaenicophaeus leschenaultii</i> (Lesson, 1830)
34	Franklin's Nightjar (682)	<i>Centropus bengalensis</i> (Gmelin, 1788)
35	Common Indian Nightjar (680-681)	<i>Caprimulgus affinis</i> Horsfield, 1821
36	Indian Edible-nest Swiftlet (685)	<i>Caprimulgus asiaticus</i> Latham, 1790
37	Brown-backed Needletail-Swift (691)	<i>Collocalia unicolor</i> (Jerdon, 1840)
38	Asian Palm-Swift (707-708)	<i>Hirundapus giganteus</i> (Temminck, 1846)
39	Alpine Swift (693-695)	<i>Cypsiurus balasiensis</i> (J.E. Gray, 1829)
40	House Swift (702-706)	<i>Tachymarptis melba</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)
41	Crested Tree-Swift (709)	<i>Apus affinis</i> (J.E. Gray, 1830)
42	Small Blue Kingfisher (722-724)	<i>Hemiprocne coronata</i> (Tickell, 1833)
43	Stork-billed Kingfisher (730-732)	<i>Alcedo atthis</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)
44	White-breasted Kingfisher (735-738)	<i>Halcyon capensis</i> (Linnaeus, 1766)
45	Lesser Pied Kingfisher (719-720)	<i>Halcyon smyrnensis</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)
46	Small Bee-eater (749-752)	<i>Ceryle rudis</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)
47	Blue-tailed Bee-eater (748)	<i>Merops orientalis</i> Latham, 1801
48	Indian Roller (755-757)	<i>Merops philippinus</i> Linnaeus, 1766
49	Common Hoopoe (763-766)	<i>Coracias benghalensis</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)
		<i>Upupa epops</i> Linnaeus, 1758

50	Indian Grey Hornbill (767)	<i>Ocypterus birostris</i> (Scopoli, 1786)
51	White-cheeked Barbet (785)	<i>Megalaima viridis</i> (Boddaert, 1783)
52		<i>Megalaima haemacephala</i> (P.L.S. Müller, 1776)
53	Coppersmith Barbet (792)	
54	Brown-capped Pygmy Woodpecker (851-854)	<i>Dendrocopos nanus</i> (Vigors, 1832)
55	Yellow-fronted Pied Woodpecker (847)	<i>Dendrocopos mahrattensis</i> (Latham, 1801)
56	Little Scaly-bellied Green Woodpecker (808)	<i>Picus xanthopygaeus</i> (J.E. Gray & G.R. Gray, 1846)
57	Lesser Golden-backed Woodpecker (818-823)	<i>Dinopium benghalense</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)
58	Ashy-crowned Sparrow-Lark (878)	
59	Jerdon's Bush-Lark (874)	<i>Eremopterix grisea</i> (Scopoli, 1786)
60	Oriental Skylark (904-909)	<i>Mirafra affinis</i> Blyth, 1845
61	Common Swallow (916-918)	<i>Alauda gulgula</i> Franklin, 1831
62	Red-rumped Swallow (923-928)	<i>Hirundo rustica</i> Linnaeus, 1758
63	Large Pied Wagtail (1891)	<i>Hirundo daurica</i> Linnaeus, 1771
64	Grey Wagtail (1884)	<i>Motacilla maderaspatensis</i> Gmelin, 1789
65	Paddyfield Pipit (1858-1860)	<i>Motacilla cinerea</i> Tunstall, 1771
66	Black-headed Cuckoo-Shrike (1078-1079)	<i>Anthus rufulus</i> Vieillot, 1818
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68	Small Minivet (1090-1095)	<i>Coracina melanoptera</i> (Rüppell, 1839)
69	Common Woodshrike (1069-1071)	<i>Pericrocotus cinnamomeus</i> (Linnaeus, 1766)
70	Red-whiskered Bulbul (1118-1122)	<i>Tephrodornis pondicerianus</i> (Gmelin, 1789)
71	Red-vented Bulbul (1126-1132)	
72	White-browed Bulbul (1138-1139)	
73	Common Iora (1097-1101)	<i>Pycnonotus jocosus</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)
74	Jerdon's Chloropsis (1107-1108)	<i>Pycnonotus cafer</i> (Linnaeus, 1766)
75	Brown Shrike (949-950a)	
76	Orange-headed Thrush (1734)	<i>Pycnonotus luteolus</i> (Lesson, 1841)
77	Oriental Magpie-Robin (1661-1664)	<i>Aegithina tiphia</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)
78	Indian Robin (1717-1721)	<i>Chloropsis cochinchinensis</i> (Gmelin, 1788)
79	Pied Bushchat (1700-1703)	<i>Lanius cristatus</i> Linnaeus, 1758
80	Rufous-bellied Babbler (1219-1223)	<i>Zosterops citrinus cyanotus</i>
	White-headed Babbler (1267-1268)	
	Streaked Fantail-Warbler (1498-1500a)	<i>Copsychus saularis</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)
		<i>Saxicoloides fulicata</i> (Linnaeus, 1776)
		<i>Saxicola caprata</i> (Linnaeus, 1766)
		<i>Dumetia hyperythra</i> (Franklin, 1831)
		<i>Turdoides affinis</i> (Jerdon, 1847)
		<i>Cisticola juncidis</i> (Rafinesque, 1810)

81	Franklin's Prinia (1502-1505)	<i>Prinia hodgsonii</i> Blyth, 1844
82	Ashy Prinia (1515-1518)	<i>Prinia socialis</i> Sykes, 1832
83	Plain Prinia (1510-1514)	<i>Prinia inornata</i> Sykes, 1832
84	Blyth's Reed-Warbler (1556)	<i>Acrocephalus dumetorum</i> Blyth, 1849
85	Common Tailorbird (1535-1539)	<i>Orthotomus sutorius</i> (Pennant, 1769)
86	Greenish Leaf-Warbler (1602-1605)	<i>Phylloscopus trochiloides</i> (Sundevall, 1837)
87	Asian Brown Flycatcher (1407)	<i>Muscicapa dauurica</i> Pallas, 1811
88	Asian Paradise-Flycatcher (1460-1464)	<i>Terpsiphone paradisi</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)
89	White-browed Fantail-Flycatcher (1451-1453)	<i>Rhipidura aureola</i> Lesson, 1830
90	Tickell's Flowerpecker (1899-1900)	<i>Dicaeum erythrorhynchos</i> (Latham, 1790)
91	Purple-rumped Sunbird (1907-1908)	<i>Nectarinia zeylonica</i> (Linnaeus, 1766)
92	Purple Sunbird (1916-1918)	<i>Nectarinia asiatica</i> (Latham, 1790)
93	Loten's Sunbird (1911-1912)	<i>Nectarinia lotenia</i> (Linnaeus, 1766)
94	White-rumped Munia (1967-1970)	<i>Lonchura striata</i> (Linnaeus, 1766)
95	Spotted Munia (1974-1975)	<i>Lonchura punctulata</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)
96	Black-headed Munia (1976-1978)	<i>Lonchura malacca</i> (Linnaeus, 1766)
97	Yellow-throated Sparrow (1948-1949)	<i>Petronia xanthocollis</i> (Burton, 1838)
98	Baya Weaver (1957-1959)	<i>Ploceus philippinus</i> (Linnaeus, 1766)
99	Grey-headed Starling (987-989)	<i>Sturnus malabaricus</i> (Gmelin, 1789)
100	Grey-headed Starling (988)	<i>Sturnus malabaricus blythii</i> (Jerdon)
101	Brahminy Starling (994)	<i>Sturnus pagodarum</i> (Gmelin, 1789)
102	Common Myna (1006-1007)	<i>Acridotheres tristis</i> (Linnaeus, 1766)
103	Eurasian Golden Oriole (952-953)	<i>Oriolus oriolus</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)
104	Black-headed Oriole (958-960a)	<i>Oriolus xanthornus</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)
105	Black Drongo (962-964)	<i>Dicrurus macrocercus</i> Vieillot, 1817
106	Ashy Drongo (965-966b)	<i>Dicrurus leucophaeus</i> Vieillot, 1817
107	Bronzed Drongo (971)	<i>Dicrurus aeneus</i> Vieillot, 1817
108	Ashy Woodswallow (982)	<i>Artamus fuscus</i> Vieillot, 1817
109	Indian Treepie (1030a-1034)	<i>Dendrocitta vagabunda</i> (Latham, 1790)
110	House Crow (1048-1051)	<i>Corvus splendens</i> Vieillot, 1817
111	Jungle Crow (1054-1057)	<i>Corvus macrorhynchos</i> Wagler, 1827

## References

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